

House Bill 349

By: Representatives Dodson of the 75th, Mitchell of the 88th, Barnes of the 78th, and Stephens of the 164th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-16-26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 investigation of charges against a sheriff and suspension of a sheriff, so as to change the
3 maximum period of time for a suspension and an extension of a suspension; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 15-16-26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to investigation
8 of charges against a sheriff and suspension of a sheriff, is amended by striking subsection (c)
9 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "(c) If the committee recommends the suspension of the sheriff, the Governor shall be
11 authorized to suspend the sheriff for a period of up to ~~60~~ 180 days. In any case where a
12 sheriff has been suspended for ~~60~~ 180 days, the Governor may extend the period of
13 suspension for an additional ~~30~~ 180 days. Upon such recommendation, the Governor shall
14 also be authorized to request the district attorney of the county of the sheriff's residence
15 to bring a removal petition against the sheriff pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section
16 15-16-10 and Code Section 15-6-82 based upon the evidence reported by the committee.
17 In the event that the Governor determines that further investigation should be made, he may
18 then order additional investigation by the committee, by the Georgia Bureau of
19 Investigation, by other law enforcement agencies of this state, or by any special committee
20 appointed by the Governor for such purpose."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.